

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 05184 072304Z

ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 EB-08 INR-10

/053 W

-----103608 072312Z /61

R 072050Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5184

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, VE

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN EVALUATING  
URANIUM DEPOSIT

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR JUNE 6, MINISTER OF MINES HERNANDEZ REPORTED THAT DEPOSITS OF URANIUM HAD BEEN FOUND AT AN UNSPECIFIED LOCATION IN VENEZUELA. HE SAID THE GOV LACKED THE NECESSARY EXPERTISE TO MAKE A TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF THE DEPOSITS, AND THEREFORE NEEDED ASSISTANCE IN ASSESSING, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SIZE OF THE DEPOSIT, THE QULITY OF THE ORE AND WHETHER IT WAS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE TO EXPLOIT THE DEPOSIT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT NEWS OF THE DISCOVERY WAS BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD WITHIN THE GOV AND ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO TREAT THE MATTER AS CONFIDENTIAL.

2. SPECIFICALLY, HERNANDEZ ASKED WHETHER THE USG COULD PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT EXPERT OR SMALL TEAM OF EXPERTS TO HELP THE MINISTRY EVALUATE THIS DISCOVERY. HE SAID HE DID NOT WANT HELP FROM THE US PRIVATE SECTOR AT THIS STAGE BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE DISCOVERY AND FOR THIS REASON WAS TURNING TO THE USG FOR HELP. THE GOV WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY FOR ASSISTANCE RENDERED.

3. ACTION REQUEST: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR  
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INTEREST TO COOPERATE WITH HERNANDEZ BY RENDERING, IF POSSIBLE, THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HE HAS ASKED FOR. DEPARTMENT IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN, AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, WHETHER ONE OR TWO SPECIALISTS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HELP OUT. DETAILS SUCH AS TIMING AND LENGTH OF STAY CULD BE WORKED OUT LATER; WHAT WE NEED NOW IS AN ANSWER, IN PRINCIPLE, THAT THE USG IS PREPARED

TO ASSIST THE MINISTRY.

4. DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES ARE REQUESTED TO TREAT  
NEWS OF DISCOVERY AND REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE AS PRIVILEGED  
INFORMATION UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

VAKY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** URANIUM, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CARACA05184  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780238-0729  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN EVALUATING URANIUM DEPOSIT  
**TAGS:** EMIN, ENRG, VE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014